Message Text

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6

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 /100 W

R 181600 Z APR 73 FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8505

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E. O. 11652: N/ A TAGS: ESTC

SUBJ: INTERVIEW WITH WALTER BASTA OF OMNITRONIC

EXCON FOR COMMERCE

REF: DEPT A-3114

- 1. BASTA CAME TO EMBASSY FOR INTERVIEW APRIL 18. HE DID NOT BRING DOCUMENTATION, CLAIMED ENTIRE OMNITRONIC FILES CONFISCATED BY AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES AND THUS NOT AVAILABLE TO HIM. EMBOFFS STRONGLY ADVISED HIM PROVIDE ALL DOCUMENTATION RE GENERATOR DIVERSION SOONEST IN ORDER SUBSTANTIATE HIS CLAIMS.
- 2. BASTA STATED HE NO LONGER INVOLVED IN DEAL BETWEEN TELEDYNE AND DEFENSE MINISTRY FOR APX-92 TRANSPONDERS. H IS, HOWEVER, WORRIED THAT HIS INVOLVEMENT IN GENERATOR DIVERSION MIGHT QUEER TELEDYNE- DEFENSE MINISTRY DEAL. CONCERN STEMS FROM SMALL COMMISSION ALLEGEDLY PROMISED HIM BY TELEDYNE IF DEAL IS MADE.
- 3. BASTA GAVE HIS VERSION GENERATOR DIVERSION CASE. EMBOFFS DID NOT TRY INTERROGATE HIM OR DEMONSTRATE DEPTH THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF CASE. BASTA CLAIMS DEAL AROSE INITIALLY THROUGH AUSTRIAN TRADE DELEGATES IN ANKARA. CIRCA MARCH 72 OMNITRONIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECEIVED FIRM ORDER, IN TURKISH, FROM "TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY" FOR GENERATOR. BASTA TURNED TO LOCAL OFFICES LANDIS # GYR AS REP OF KAMAN AND PLACED ORDER. BASTA CLAIMS HE SIGNED BLANK EXPORT LICENSE REQUEST, LEAVING LANDIS & GYR TO FILL OUT FORM. DELIVERY LAGGED, AND OMNITRONIC RECEIVED LETTER FROM ANKARA CANCELLING ORDER. BASTA BEGAN SEEKING OTHER CUSTOMERS, AND CLAIMS WAS TOLD BY LANDIS & GYR THAT GENERATOR COULD BE SOLD TO ANY COUNTRY NOT AT WAR. SINCE HE ALLEGEDLY HAD PRIOR BUSINESS CONTACT WITH MASHPRIBORINTORG, HE OFFERED THEM GENERATOR, AND THEY EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS BUY IT. BASTA DID NOT MENTION FALSE PRETENSES UNDER WHICH HE DIVERTED GENERATOR AT VIENNA AIRPORT.

4. WE FIND HIS STORY IMPLAUSIBLE AND FEEL HE LEFT RATHER UNTRUSTWORTHY IMPRESSION. IN VIEW CLEAR EVIDENCE HIS DIVERSION OF GENERATOR TO USSR, WHETHER DELIBERATE OR THROUGH IGNORANCE OF LAW, RECOMMEND HE BE PLACED ON DENIAL ORDER LIST UNTIL CASE FINALLY SETTLED. HUMES

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^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

^{***} Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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